

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

16 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with Dr. Brockway McMillan,
DNRO, 15 March 1963

1. McMillan raised the question of a request from Greer for authority to recall the LANYARD in the event of technical difficulty. I indicated I thought he already had this authority but in any case concurred that this would be desirable, particularly on the first shot since this was primarily an engineering shot. I believe that if time permitted, prior to such action Headquarters should be consulted. Greer apparently had also requested direct communications to the NRO Center. I said I thought this already existed except that it might mechanically pass through our com center since I knew there had been some question raised about the security of AF communications channels. This matter was left in abeyance until we could find out exactly what the situation was.

2. Mr. McMillan raised the question of the activation of the NRO operations center. He indicated that he thought an appropriate time would be following the next M shot since this would give a few weeks' interval in which to carry out several CPX's and check out the whole system. I concurred in this with the proviso that I would have to check it out with Mr. McCone on Tuesday when he returns. I also pointed out that programming and control of these missions, such as LANYARD, was more difficult than had originally been conceived and that a thorough review of what should be done in Washington and how it should be done was needed. I pointed out that we were developing a system using computers to assist in this activity.

3. A review was held of the proposed back-up program for satellite reconnaissance in accordance with USIB's request and my discussions with Charyk in early February. [redacted] presented a program which involved using the second A vehicle

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as a back-up either for M or A during June and July. This would be followed, beginning in August at the rate of 1 a month, by 6 back-up M systems using the ☐ THORS. These would be geared to permit launching on 7 days' notice. In order to get a one day's notice launching capability, three pads would have to be continuously tied up. This back-up program will require the purchase of 6 additional M payloads. The availability of special hardware is the factor limiting earlier back-up capabilities. This program will be prepared for Sec/Def's and DCI's approval by the latter part of next week.

Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

ODDR:HScoville: ☐

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